



PO Box 7114
Wilton, CT 06897
norwalkriver.org

February 9, 2021

RE: Testimony in support of ***Raised S.B. 837 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM***

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, Ranking Members Senator Miner, Representative Harding and distinguished members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Norwalk River Watershed Association (NRWA) which represents over 2000 participants working together to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in six CT towns-- Norwalk, Wilton, Ridgefield, Redding, Weston, New Canaan--to ask for your support of Raised SB 837.

When fire-fighting foam containing PFAS chemicals (AFFF) is deployed for training or on a real fire or is accidentally spilled, as happened at Bradley Airport in 2019, thousands of gallons of this toxic forever chemical enter the environment contaminating our waterways and eventually entering Long Island Sound. They cause harm to our environment, economy, and public health.

CT cannot wait to take action on this issue. In Norwalk, we have had a drinking water well closed because of the presence of PFAS already. We support the passage of Raised S.B. 837 but argue that the use of PFAS-containing foam (AFFF) for training be banned immediately. We support a full ban of AFFF, unless required by federal law, by 2022. Fluorine-free foams exist and are known to be effective. A timely and full ban is consistent with the actions of other states, will reduce exposure to firefighters and first responders and significantly reduce toxic chemical contamination of our environment.

We support and appreciate DEEP's implementing a take-back program. We need to stop the flow of these chemicals into our waterways and our air. There is no way to clean them up!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony,

Sincerely,

Louise Washer, President
Norwalk River Watershed Association